

Markham neurologist's patients will get piece of \$29.5 million settlement

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the EEGs, which were carried out by technician Nicholas Kyprianou.

A public health investigation in 1996 revealed Mr. Kyprianou had a highly infectious case of hepatitis B and did not wear gloves while performing the EEGs. The investigation also determined the needles weren't properly sterilized and infection-control procedures were woefully inadequate.

"The reuse of needle electrodes from patient to patient without sterilization or cleaning in any way does not meet any standard of practice in place at the time and is, of course, reprehensible," the ruling states.

"The committee considered the failure of Dr. Wilson to appropriately supervise directly or audit the behaviour of Mr. Kyprianou over a period of 20 years egregious in the extreme."

Among other things, the panel found Dr. Wilson:

- Failed to ensure staff used gloves during the insertion of needle electrodes when exposure to blood and bodily fluids was probable.

- Failed to implement a monitoring process to ensure the adequacy of sterilization procedures.

- Failed to ensure staff washed their hands between patients.

- Allowed needle electrodes to be used on successive patients without appropriate cleaning, disinfection or sterilization processes.

Dr. Wilson also put his staff at risk by not offering hepatitis B vaccinations or creating written policies and procedures available on needle stick injuries, the panel found.

"Dr. Wilson's failure to ensure the health and safety of his staff and patients in this way showed disregard for practice standards and was, in fact, disgraceful," the decision reads.

A penalty hearing, where Dr. Wilson's medical licence could be revoked or restricted, has not yet been scheduled.

In January, Dr. Wilson agreed to a \$29.5 million settlement in a class action civil suit filed by more than 300 victims. That list could swell to more than 600, according to lawyer Michael Head.

"Many people are going to come forward who have been diagnosed with hep-



DR. RONALD WILSON: Neurologist who operated Markham clinic also put staff at risk, investigation found.

atitis B and who were patients of Dr. Wilson's," he said. "But we don't really know how many. It's been the subject of long debate, but we believe somewhere between 300 and 600."

The payments will go out in stages and increase with the severity of exposure, he said. Patients who were notified but weren't infected are entitled to \$1,000. Those who contacted hepatitis B at the clinics are scored on a point system, including number of days off work and number of days in hospital, with the minimum payout about \$10,000 and the maximum to about \$125,000, Mr. Head explained.

It took five years, until May, 2001, to certify the suit as a class action, where numerous victims can sue together, because Dr. Wilson took the issue all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Head explained.

"Dr. Wilson's insurance dragged this out through four levels of court, not on the merits of the case or whether he was liable, but simply on the basis of the suit being filed as a class action," he said.

"But in May, 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada decided they didn't want to hear it." That led to "protracted negotiations and mediation" through the fall of 2001 and a settlement deal was legally approved in January.

Navigant Consulting in Toronto is still taking calls from people who may be victims of the outbreak. Call 1-866-841-0603 or visit www.hepbsettlement.com

Firefighters go 'all out' for calendar

BY CHRISSIE O'BRIEN
Special

Hunky York Region firefighters turned up the heat so much during a fundraiser last week that one commentator declared "I didn't think there would be so much skin".

The event — a competition to decide who would make next year's Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation calendar — attracted 1,500 people. It was sponsored by the CBCF's York Region branch along with Markham Stouffville Hospital and Southlake Hospital in Newmarket.

"I thought the firefighters would be a little more tame and shy," said Mary

Coppard, a judge and past president of the York Region CBCF. "I was quite pleased to see they went all out."

Twenty-six firefighters from Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan did their best to impress judges, dancing, gyrating and singing for the crowd at Palazzo nightclub in Richmond Hill.

In the end 13 were chosen for the calendar, which will be unveiled Nov. 3 at the CBCF Celebration of Hope Luncheon. It will be available through the CBCF offices for \$20. Chosen from Markham are Chris Lane, Chris Tamaya and Ryan Best.

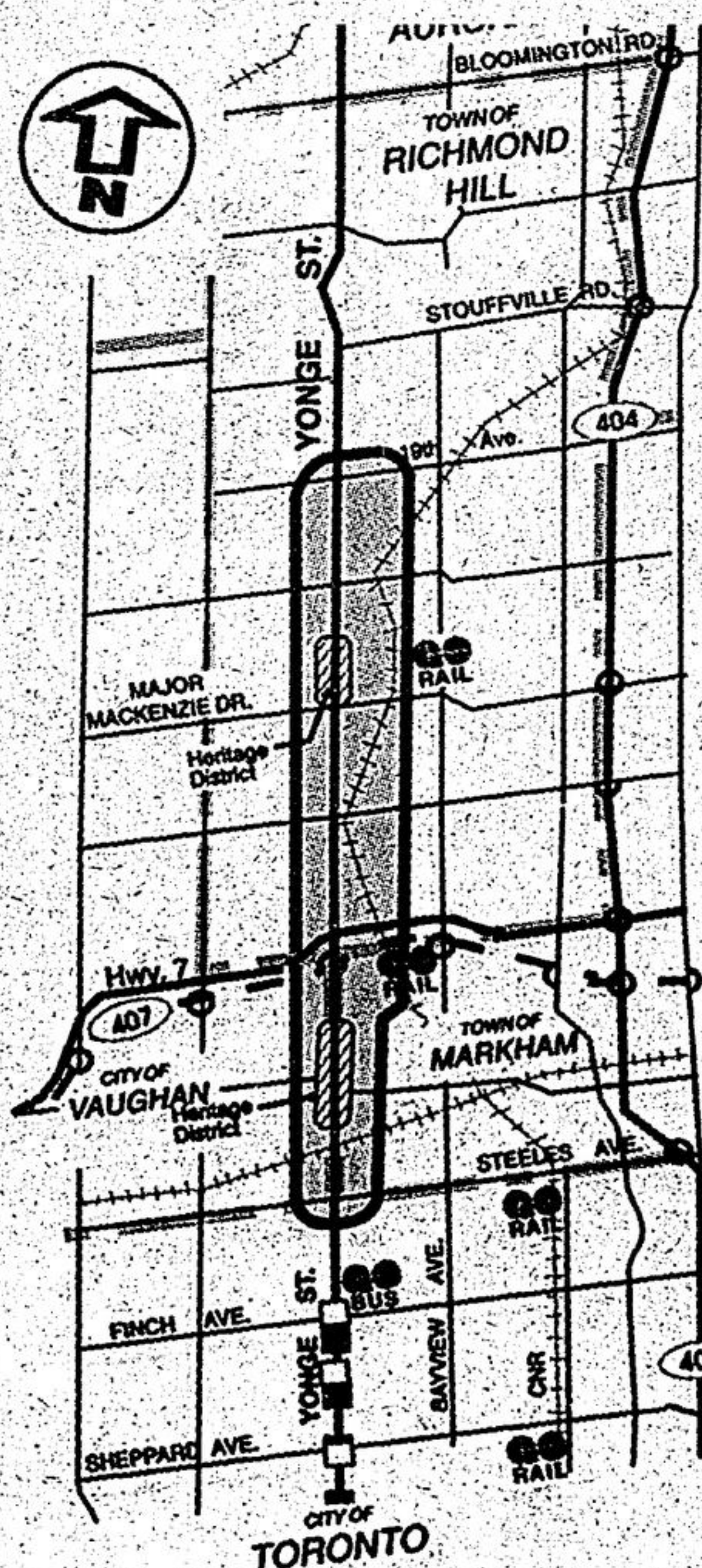
More information on the CBCF is available at www.cbcf.org.



CHRIS TAMAYA
Markham firefighter in breast cancer calendar.

The Regional Municipality of York Notice of Submission Term of Reference Yonge Street Corridor Transitway

As part of the Yonge Street Corridor Transitway planning process, Terms of Reference (ToR) were recently submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) for formal review as required under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved, the ToR will serve as a benchmark for the preparation and review of the environmental assessment (EA) document for this undertaking.



The Yonge Street Corridor Transitway is intended to extend the influence of the regional rapid transit network in order to substantially increase transit ridership within York Region. If approved, the proposed undertaking and its alternatives will be located within the Yonge Street corridor between Steeles Avenue and 19th Avenue as identified in the adjacent map.

You may inspect the ToR during normal business hours at the following locations:

1. Ministry of Environment and Energy
Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, ON M4V 1L5
(416) 314-8001
2. Ministry of Environment and Energy
Central Region Office
5775 Yonge Street, 8th Floor
North York, ON M2M 4J1
(416) 326-6700
3. Regional Municipality of York
Office of the Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
(905) 895-1231

Your written comments regarding the ToR must be received prior to October 4, 2002. All comments should be submitted to:

Donna Bigelow, Special Project Officer (A)
Ministry of the Environment and Energy
Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON M4V 1L5
(416) 314-7225

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent.

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and can be released, if requested, to any person.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

ROAD CLOSURE AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR THE BELL CANADIAN OPEN

Angus Glen Golf Club

The Region of York will be closing:

September 2-8, 2002

Major Mackenzie Dr. from Warden Ave. to Kennedy Rd. and

September 5-8, 2002

Warden Ave. from Major Mackenzie Dr. to Elgin Mills Rd.

All Closures will be in effect from

6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day

Please take alternate routes to avoid delays

Parking restrictions will be in effect in adjacent neighborhoods

The Town of Markham will enforce parking restrictions

to ensure emergency vehicle access.

For more information contact 905-475-4866



Website: www.city.markham.on.ca

